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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/691,338	10/22/2003	Takahiro Naka	448563/0233	6856

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EXAMINER

VO, ANH T N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2861

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/691,338

Applicant(s)

NAKA ET AL.



Examiner

Anh T.N. Vo

Art Unit

2861

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

NON-FINAL REJECTION

The rejection over Kosugi (6,585,345) and Usui (6,793,330) is withdrawn in view of the Arguments presented in the amendment.

New prior art references necessitated a new ground of rejection is below:

Claim Rejections

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8-9 and 11 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Dietl et al (Pub. No. US2002/0063760A1) in view of Swanson et al (US 5,870,125) and further in view of Kazuo (JP02000255080A).

Dietl et al discloses in Figures 1-2 a printer comprising:

- an ink cartridge (14);
- a communication unit (18) being attached to a side of the ink cartridge (1). The communication unit has a memory (22, Figure 2) and an antenna portion of conductive pattern (24, 26); and
- a detector (32, 33).

However, Dietl et al does not disclose that the ink cartridge (14) has a bottom-box type container which includes a liquid supply port and a lid member sealing an opening portion, the communication unit (18) is provided on a wall opposed to wall in which said liquid

supply port is formed and includes the antenna portion being coupled to the memory and having conductive pattern, and the antenna portion is provided so as to occupy at least 70% of one wall surface region of the container.

Nevertheless, Swanson et al suggests in Figure 3-5 an ink cartridge comprising a lid (70) for covering an opening at a side for reducing the footprint size of the printer, see the Abstract.

Furthermore, Kazuo suggests in Figures 1-2 an ink cartridge (1) having a communication unit (7) placed within a recess on a wall opposed to a wall in which a supply port (5) is formed for easily detecting the cartridge type with low cost, see the Abstract.

It would have been obvious to a person having skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the ink cartridge as suggested by Swanson et al et al in the printer of Dietl et al for the purpose of reducing the footprint size of the printer and for placing the communication unit of Dietl at the top wall as suggested by Kazuo for the purpose of easily detecting the ink cartridge with low cost.

Noted that the antenna portion of Dietl is the microstrip/stripline antenna and its conductive pattern (24, 26) are not shown in the real physical dimension. As well known in the art, the dimension of the lines (24, 26) and their real surface area are determined by the operating frequency of the antenna since an antenna operating at lower frequency would occupy an area larger than an antenna operating at higher frequency. Also, the conductive pattern of the microstrip antenna can be arranged in rectangular shape or spiral shape or both shapes depending upon the mounting surface, see the antenna pattern being arranged in Figure 4 of the Morizumi et al reference (US 6,459,588) or in Figure 1 of the Riso Chem (JP2002-159653). Thus, selecting the antenna pattern to fit to the wall of the ink container that occupies at least 70% of the wall as claimed is considered to be a matter of a design expedient for an engineer depending upon the operating frequency of the antenna and the size of the wall. Lacking of showing any criticality, it would have been obvious to a person having skill in the art at the time the invention was made to

rearrange and select the conductive portion of Dietl as claimed for the purpose of accommodating with the antenna operating frequency and the size of the wall.

With regard to claim 8, wherein the communication unit (7) is placed on a recess as shown on Figure 2 of Kuzuo.

With regard to claim 9, since the communication unit is housed within the recess as shown in Figure 2 of Kuzuo, the antenna portion in the modified ink container of Dietl would be fitted within the recess. Thus, the depth of the recess should be larger than the thickness of the antenna portion.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Dietl et al (Pub. No. US2002/0063760A1) in view of Swanson et al (US 5,870,125) and further in view of Kazuo (JP02000255080A) and Michiharu (JP02000203047A).

Dietl et al in view of Swanson et al and Kazuo disclose a printer with all of the limitations of the base claim as stated above but does not disclose a detection unit for detecting an amount of said liquid.

Nevertheless, Michiharu suggests in Figure 5 a detection unit (408) coupled to an antenna (606) on a circuit board (602) which is attached to ink cartridges (IT) for detecting amount of ink (running out of ink) easily with high reliability, see the Abstract.

It would have been obvious to a person having skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the detection unit as suggested by Michiharu in the modified ink cartridge of Dietl et al for the purpose of detecting running out of ink easily with high reliability.

Claims 7 and 12 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Dietl et al (US2002/0063760A1) in view of Swanson et al (US 5,870,125) and further in view of Kazuo (JP02000255080A) and Inoue et al (US 5,619,237).

Dietl et al in view of Kazuo and Swanson et al discloses a printer with all of the limitations of the base claim as stated above but does not disclose that the width of the ink containers are different according to a kind of the liquid and the ink container includes a lever supporting an attachment operation.

Nevertheless, Inoue et al suggests in Figure 28b a color ink cartridge (140) having a width larger than the width of a black ink cartridge (130) to prevent them from mounting to wrong mounting side, see lines 38-47, column 23, and latch levels (132e, 142e) for securely locking the ink cartridges to the holder.

It would have been obvious to a person having skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the width of the modified ink cartridge of Dietl in different thickness according to the colors and employ a latch level as suggested by Inoue et al for the purpose of preventing the ink cartridges from mounting to wrong mounting side and securely locking the cartridges to the holder.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Dietl et al (Pub. No. US2002/0063760A1) in view of Swanson et al (US 5,870,125) and further in view of Kazuo (JP02000255080A) and Morizumi et al (US 6,459,588).

Dietl et al in view of Kazuo and Swanson et al discloses a printer with all of the limitations of the base claim as stated above but does not disclose a cover material being applied to the surface of the antenna portion.

Nevertheless, Morizumi et al suggests in Figure 1 to place protective layers (16a, 16b) over an antenna portion (13) for protecting the antenna portion from damage.


It would have been obvious to a person having skill in the art at the time the invention was made to cover the antenna portion Dietl et al with a protective material as suggested by Morizumi et al for the purpose of protecting the antenna from damage.

Response to Applicant's Arguments

The applicant's arguments with respect to the prior art rejection have been carefully considered and have been traversed in view of the new grounds of rejection over Dietl et al., Morizumi et al., Swanson et al., Inoue et al., Kazuo, Michiharu and Riso Chem references.

CONCLUSION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Anh Vo whose telephone number is (571) 272-2262. The fax number of this Group 2800 is (571) 273-8300.



ANH T.N. VO
PRIMARY EXAMINER
December 9, 2005